

VOLVO

Volvo Trucks North America, Inc.

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OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

May 21, 1999

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

RE: NHTSA Recall Campaign Number: 99V-055.004
Volvo Trucks North America, Inc., Recall Number: RVXX9903

Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. of Greensboro, North Carolina, per the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.5(c)(9), herewith submits a copy of its recall bulletin and owner notice for the subject recall. Mailing of the bulletin and owner notices was started on May 17, 1999, and was completed on May 20, 1999.

Very Truly Yours



Charles D. Powell
Recall Administrator

Enclosures (2)

SAFETY RECALL BULLETIN

VOLVO

SAFETY RECALL RVXX9903
MAY 1999

**ATTENTION: SERVICE MANAGERS
PARTS MANAGERS**

SUBJECT: Meritor Automatic Slack Adjuster Pull Pawl

SAFETY RECALL INFORMATION:

Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. has decided that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Volvo model vehicles.

The brake automatic slack adjuster pull pawl may not have been tightened to the specified torque. If this condition exists, the brake will lose further adjustment, and the affected wheel brake assembly will become ineffective.

VEHICLES AFFECTED:

Certain Autocar, VN, WG, and WX model vehicles manufactured by Volvo Trucks North America, Inc., between January 12, 1999 and January 18, 1999 with Meritor brake automatic slack adjusters.

VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS (VIN):

There are two hundred and eighty-five (285) vehicles affected by this recall.

The affected vehicles are within the following VIN range.

<u>From</u>	<u>Through</u>
4VGSDCJH0XN519900	4VHSCEJHXXN520076
4VG7DAJH4XN761700	4VHJCCGF4XN867781

NOTE: To verify or determine if a particular vehicle is affected by this recall (or any other recall), you should consult the Dealer Communication System (WINS). By entering the Vehicle Identification Number into the Vehicle Inquiry (VEHINQ) segment, the screen will display in the upper right hand corner any outstanding recall.

The enclosed "Dealer Listing" identifies the vehicles that were sold or shipped to your dealership. Be sure to check the VEHINQ screen before performing the recall to verify that the recall is still open.

Page 1 of 4

**SAFETY RECALL RVXX9903
MAY 1999**

INSPECTION INSTRUCTIONS:

There are no inspections required for this recall.

REPAIR:

The repair consists of tightening the Meritor automatic slack adjuster pull pawl to the specified torque at all wheel/brake locations. The Meritor repair instructions are attached at the end of this bulletin.

TIME ALLOWANCE:

Inspection:	- No time allowed
Repair:	- 0.7 hour per vehicle

RECALL PARTS:

No parts are required for this recall.

KIT ORDERING PROCEDURES:

Does not apply to this recall.

DEALER INVENTORY:

No parts should be required from dealer stock.

REMOVED PARTS:

Does not apply to this recall.

CLAIMS FOR CREDIT:

Expenses associated with the performance of this recall will be reimbursed based on the guidelines identified in this Bulletin, and by submitting a claim following published instructions in the claim preparation section of the "Warranty Administration Procedures Manual".

NOTE: Claims for a recall repair must be submitted within 2 working days from the repair date.

CLAIM CODING INFORMATION:

Type	- P	
Authorization Number	- RVXX9903	
Inspection	- NONE	
Repair	- 51411-0-02	0.7 hour per vehicle

**SAFETY RECALL RVXX9903
MAY 1999****OWNER RECALL RESPONSE CARD:**

The "Owner Recall Response Card" is to provide the vehicle owner with a convenient way to notify Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. of changes affecting the ownership of the subject vehicle. The owner card is not intended for dealer usage other than to assist you in the preparation of the repair orders necessary to perform the applicable recall on the subject vehicle. Please do not use the card as a way to inform Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. that the vehicle has been inspected or modified. Your WINS on-line system entry is sufficient.

DEALER RECALL RESPONSIBILITY:

Dealers are to perform the recall on all vehicles subject to the recall at no charge to the owner regardless of mileage, age of vehicle, or ownership from this time forward. Whenever a vehicle subject to this recall is taken into or is in your vehicle inventory or dealership for service, we strongly recommend you make every effort to perform the recall correction before the vehicle is sold or released to the owner.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

A copy of the Owner Notice has been included for your reference. Please note that the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act requires that the owner's vehicle(s) be corrected within a reasonable time after parts are available to you. The law states that failure to repair a vehicle within sixty (60) day after tender for repair shall be a prima facie evidence of unreasonable time. However, circumstances of a particular situation may reduce the sixty (60) day period. If an owner's vehicle is not repaired within a reasonable time, he or she may be entitled, without charge, to a reasonable equivalent vehicle or refund of the purchase price, less reasonable allowance for depreciation.

Volvo Trucks North America, Inc.
P.O. Box 26115
Greensboro, NC 27102-6115

SAFETY RECALL RVXX9903 MAY 1999

SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

VOLVO
 SAFETY RECALL RVXX9903
 MAY 1999

Dear Volvo Truck Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Highway Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. has learned that a defect has existed in your vehicle since early in 1999.

SAFETY DEFECT: The pull point on the automatic slack adjuster in each wheel brake location may be loose.

POTENTIAL HAZARD: If the condition exists, the brake will lose further adjustment and eventually become ineffective. An ineffective brake may increase the vehicle stopping distance, and prevent the vehicle from stopping.

PRECAUTIONS YOU CAN TAKE: There are no precautions you can take other than having a Volvo truck dealer check each brake automatic slack adjuster pull point on your vehicle.

REPAIRS: As no change to the operation of your vehicle's air or electrical system is required, no parts will be replaced.

TIME REQUIRED FOR THE REPAIR: The labor time required to repair your vehicle is about one hour.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO: Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. urges you to immediately contact a Volvo truck dealer for a service appointment to have your vehicle repaired. No parts will be replaced for this recall.

Volvo Trucks North America, Inc.
 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20570
 P.O. Box 26115
 Charlotte, NC 28226

NOTICE REGARDING LEASED VEHICLES

If you are a Lessee of vehicles subject to this Notice, you have an obligation under Federal Law to provide a copy of this Notice to all Lessees within 10 days of your receipt of this Notice. Further, you must maintain a record which identifies the Lessees to whom you send a copy of this letter, the date you send this letter, and the Vehicle Identification Number(s) of the vehicle(s) that you have leased to that Lessee. For purposes of this Notice, the term Lessee means a person or entity that is the owner, as indicated on the vehicle's title, of any five or more leased vehicles as defined in 49 CFR Section 377.43, at all times during the notification by the manufacturer of the existence of a safety-related defect or non-compliance with a Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard to any or more of the leased motor vehicles.

OWNER RECALL RESPONSE CARD

The enclosed "Owner Recall Response Card" identifies your vehicle. Submission of this card to your dealer will assist in the processing of your vehicle in the shortest time possible. If you do not own, have sold or have rented the vehicle identified, please let us know by completing, and mailing the postage-paid card and returning it to Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. so we can update our records.

ASSISTANCE

If your vehicle has not been modified within a reasonable time after receiving it to the dealer on the agreed-upon date, please contact:

Volvo Trucks North America, Inc.
 Recall Department
 P.O. Box 26115
 Charlotte, NC 28226-1115

or call our toll-free number: 1-800-228-4565. You may also submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20570 or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hot Line at 1-800-424-9393. Washington, DC area residents may call 202-366-4123.


We regret any inconvenience this recall may cause, but hope you will share in the concern for your safety and satisfaction with your vehicle.

Sincerely,
 Volvo Trucks North America, Inc.



MERITOR
A Heritage of Roadwell Technology

Check Pull Pawl Assemblies for Meritor Automatic Slack Adjusters Shipped Between January 8, 1999, and January 14, 1999

Check that the torque for all automatic slack adjuster (ASA) pull pawls is 15-20 lb-ft (20-27 N·m). Meritor requires this inspection because some ASAs shipped between January 8, 1999 (Julian date 99 8), and January 14, 1999 (Julian date 99 14) could have loose pawl assemblies. To locate an ASA's shipping date, refer to the Julian date printed on the label attached to the ASA. 

For complete maintenance and service instructions on Meritor's PayMaster® Automatic Slack Adjusters, refer to Maintenance Manual No. 4B, *PayMaster® Automatic Slack Adjuster*. To order a copy of this publication, call Meritor's Customer Service Center at 800-535-5500.

Inspect and Tighten the Automatic Slack Adjuster Pull Pawl



WARNING

To prevent serious eye injury, always wear safe eye protection when you perform vehicle maintenance or service.

Park the vehicle on a level surface. Block the wheels to prevent the vehicle from moving. Serious personal injury can result.

1. Park the vehicle on a level surface and block the wheels.

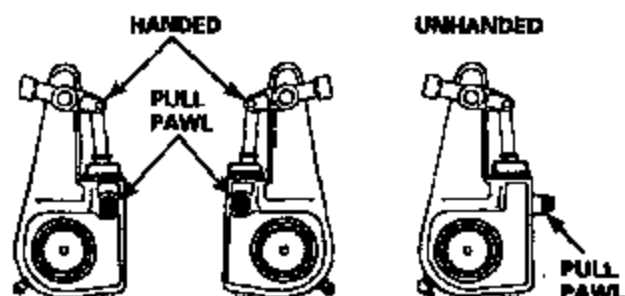


WARNING

When you work on a spring chamber, carefully follow the service instructions of the chamber manufacturer. Sudden release of a compressed spring can cause serious personal injury.

2. If the brake has a spring brake, compress and lock the spring, so that the brake is released completely. Check that no air pressure remains in the service half of the air chamber.
3. Locate the automatic slack adjuster pull pawl. The pull pawl is located in one of three possible locations. Figure 1.

Figure 1



NOTE: Use a crow's foot wrench or adapter when the pull pawl is difficult to access.


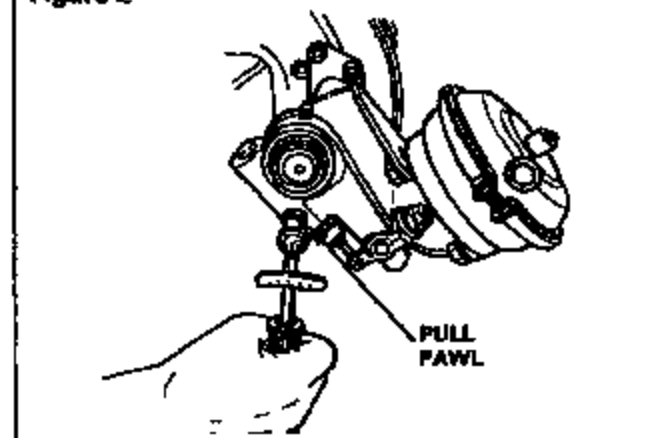
4. Use a dial-type or click-type torque wrench fitted with a 3/4-inch socket to tighten the pull pawl to 15-20 lb-ft (20-27 N·m). Figure 2. 

Figure 2



Free Stroke Measurement



CAUTION

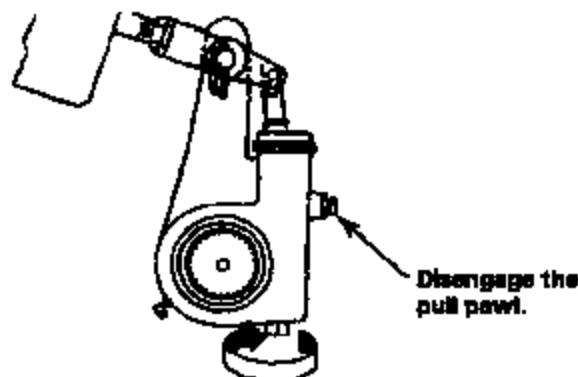
You must disengage a pull pawl or remove a conventional pawl before rotating the manual adjusting nut, or you will damage the pawl teeth. A damaged pawl will not allow the slack adjuster to automatically adjust brake clearance. Replace damaged pawls before putting the vehicle in service.

NOTE: During preventive maintenance on an in-service brake, check both the free stroke as described below and the adjusted chamber stroke.

On some applications, you may find the in-service free stroke to be slightly longer than specified in Step 5. However, this is not necessarily a concern, as long as the adjusted chamber stroke is within the limits shown in the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) charts at the end of this publication.

1. Disengage the pull pawl.
2. Turn the adjusting nut in the direction shown in Figure 3 until the linings touch the drum and then turn the adjusting nut in the opposite direction 1/2 turn.

Figure 3



3. Measure the distance from the center of the large clevis pin to the bottom of the air chamber while the brake is released. Refer to "X" in Figure 4.
4. Use a pry bar to move the slack adjuster so that the linings are against the drum (applying the brakes). Measure the same distance again while the brakes are applied. Refer to "Y" in Figure 4.

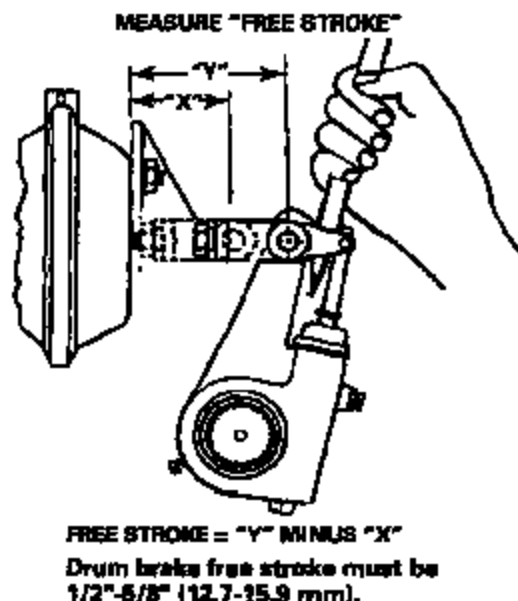


CAUTION

Do not set **FREE STROKE** shorter than specifications set by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) charts. If **FREE STROKE** is too short, linings can drag and damage the brake.

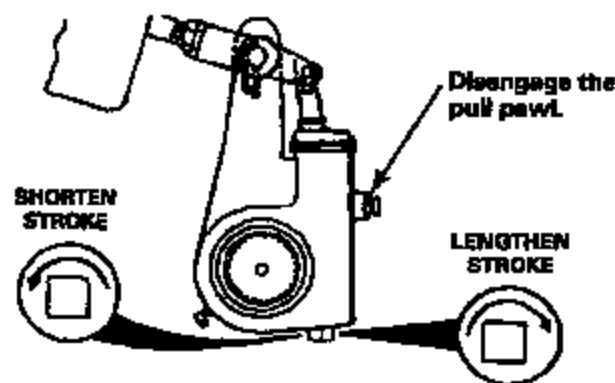
5. The difference between measurement "X" and measurement "Y" is the **FREE STROKE**, which sets the clearance between the linings and drum (rotor). **FREE STROKE** for drum brakes must be within 1/2-inch - 5/8-inch (12.7-15.9 mm). Figure 4.

Figure 4



6. If it is necessary to adjust the stroke, turn the adjusting nut 1/8 turn in the direction shown in Figure 5 and check the stroke again. Continue to measure and adjust the stroke until it is adjusted correctly.
7. Release the pull pawl.

Figure 5



Check the Automatic Slack Adjuster

1. Disengage the pull pawl.
2. Lengthen the stroke by rotating the adjusting nut four (4) clockwise turns.
3. Release the pull pawl.
4. Use a pry bar to move the slack adjuster so that the linings are against the drum (applying the brakes).
5. Measure the FREE STROKE. Refer to the "Free Stroke Measurement" section of this publication.
 - If the automatic slack adjuster adjusts correctly: Proceed to the next step.
 - If the automatic slack adjuster does not adjust correctly: Refer to Section 8 of Meritor Maintenance Manual No. 4B. To order this publication, call Meritor's Customer Service Center at 800-535-6560.



WARNING

When you work on a spring chamber, carefully follow the service instructions of the chamber manufacturer. Sudden release of a compressed spring can cause serious personal injury.

6. If the brake has spring chambers, carefully release the spring.
7. Adjust the brakes. Refer to Maintenance Manual No. 4B, *PayMaster® Automatic Slack Adjuster*.
8. Remove the blocks from the wheels.
9. Test the vehicle to ensure that the brake system is operating correctly before you return the vehicle to service.

Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) North American Out-of-Service Criteria Reference Charts

"Standard Stroke" Clamp-Type Brake Chamber Data

Type	Outside Diameter (inches)	Brake Adjustment Limit (inches)
6	4-1/2	1-1/4
9	5-1/4	1-3/8
12	5-4/16	1-3/8
16	6-3/8	1-3/4
20	6-25/32	1-3/4
24	7-7/32	1-3/4
30	8-3/32	2
36	9	2-1/4

"Long Stroke" Clamp-Type Brake Chamber Data

Type	Outside Diameter (inches)	Brake Adjustment Limit (inches)
16	6-3/8	2.0
20	6-25/32	2.0
24	7-7/32	2.0
24*	7-7/32	2.5
30	8-3/32	2.5

* For 3" maximum stroke type 24 chambers

NOTE: A brake found at the adjustment limit is not a violation.



Meritor Heavy Vehicle Systems, LLC
2135 West Maple Road
Troy, MI 48064 U.S.A.
800-535-3580
www.meritorauto.com

Information contained in this publication was in effect at the time the publication was approved for printing and is subject to change without notice or liability. Meritor Heavy Vehicle Systems, LLC, reserves the right to revise the information presented or discontinue the production of parts described at any time.

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SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

VOLVO

**SAFETY RECALL RVXX9903
MAY 1999**

Dear Volvo Truck Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Highway Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. has decided that a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Autocar, VN, WG, and WX model vehicles built between January 12, 1999 and January 18, 1999.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| SAFETY DEFECT: | The pull pawl on the automatic slack adjuster at each wheel brake location may be loose. |
| POTENTIAL RISK: | If this condition exists, the brake will lose further adjustment and eventually become ineffective. An ineffective brake may without warning increase the vehicle stopping distance, and potential for vehicle crash. |
| PRECAUTION YOU CAN TAKE: | There are no precautions you can take other than having a Volvo truck dealer check each brake automatic slack adjuster pull pawl on your vehicle. |
| REPAIR: | At no charge to you regardless of your vehicle's age or mileage, a Volvo truck dealer will check each automatic slack adjuster pull pawl and where required tighten to specified torque. |
| TIME REQUIRED FOR THE REPAIR: | The labor time required to repair your vehicle is about one hour. |
| WHAT YOU SHOULD DO: | Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. <u>urges</u> you to immediately contact a Volvo truck dealer for a service appointment to have your vehicle repaired. No parts will be required for this recall. |

**NOTICE REGARDING
LEASED VEHICLES:**

If you are a Lessor of vehicles subject to this Notice, you have an obligation under Federal Law to provide a copy of this Notice to all Lessees within 10 days of your receipt of this Notice. Further, you must maintain a record which identifies the Lessee(s) to whom you send a copy of this letter, the date you send this letter, and the Vehicle Identification Number(s) of the vehicle(s) that you have leased to that Lessee. For purposes of this Notice, the term Lessor means: a person or entity that is the owner, as reflected on the vehicle's title, of any five or more leased vehicles (as defined in 49 CFR Section 577.4), as of the date of notification by the manufacturer of the existence of a safety-related defect or non-compliance with a Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard in one or more of the leased motor vehicles.

**OWNER RECALL
RESPONSE CARD:**

The enclosed "Owner Recall Response Card" identifies your vehicle. Presentation of this card to your dealer will assist in the processing of your vehicle in the shortest time possible. If you do not own, have sold or have traded the vehicle identified, please let us know by completing, and signing the postage-paid Card and returning it to Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. so we can update our records.

ASSISTANCE:

If your vehicle has not been modified within a reasonable time after tendering it to the dealer on the agreed-upon date, please contact:

Volvo Trucks North America, Inc.

Recall Department

P.O. Box 26115

Greensboro, NC 27402-6115

or call our toll-free number: 1-800-528-6586. You may also submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington DC 20590 or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hot Line at 1-800-424-9393. Washington, DC area residents may call 202-366-0123.

We regret any inconvenience this recall may cause, but hope you will share in our concern for your safety and satisfaction with your vehicle.

Sincerely,
Volvo Trucks North America, Inc.